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1989/12/15

(X30)

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE CHRISTMAS

RECESS TO VISIT POSTS IN CHINA AND HONG KONG. DURING A VISIT TO HONG KONG FROM DECEMBER 3 TO 6, CONGRESSMAN PORTER CONCENTRATED ON THE ISSUE OF CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997. HE EMPHASIZED THE INTERNATIONAL SAFETY NET WHICH HE AND CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ HAVE PROPOSED IN THEIR CO-SPONSORED RESOLUTION AND EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN REGARDING THE FORCED REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE BOAT
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PEOPLE.

FOLLOWING THREE DAYS IN HONG KONG, CONGRESSMAN FEIGHAN MET WITH OFFICIALS IN BEIJING AND SHANGHAI DURING HIS DECEMBER 6-10 VISIT TO CHINA, THE FIRST CONGRESSIONAL VISIT SINCE THE SUMMER. AT MEETINGS IN BEIJING WITH THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS (NPC), THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND TRADE, AND THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, FEIGHAN HEARD CHINESE LEADERS UNDERLINE CHINA'S COMMITMENT TO REFORM AND OPENING TO THE WEST AS WELL AS ITS CONTINUED INTEREST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IN SHANGHAI, FEIGHAN MET WITH CATHOLIC BISHOP JIN LUXIAN AND DISCUSSED PROSPECTS FOR MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH VICE MAYOR LIU ZHENYUAN. DESPITE THE GENERALLY CORDIAL TONE OF HIS MEETINGS, AT THE NPC IN BEIJING AND THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN SHANGHAI FEIGHAN HEARD BLUNT CRITICISM OF CONGRESSIONAL "INTERFERENCE IN CHINA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS."

CONGRESSMAN DYMALLY IS VISITING HONG KONG, JAPAN, KOREA, AND TAIWAN FROM DECEMBER 10 THROUGH 21. CONGRESSMAN MADIGAN PLANS TO TRAVEL TO HONG KONG, SINGAPORE AND THAILAND JANUARY 3 THROUGH 13. CONGRESSMAN RANGEL, CHAIRMAN OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS, WILL VISIT HONG KONG ON JANUARY 7 THROUGH 9, IN ADDITION TO KOREA, THAILAND, AND LAOS, FOCUSSED ON NARCOTICS ISSUES. EAGLEBURGER

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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 89STATE 400045

MISSILE SALES WAS SIMILAR TO, BUT SIGNIFICANTLY MORE SPECIFIC THAN, ONE ISSUED IN NOVEMBER. THE MFA ALSO AGREED THURSDAY TO ACCREDIT THE NEW VOA BUREAU CHIEF, WHOSE APPLICATION HAD BEEN PENDING SINCE SEPTEMBER. THE EMBASSY'S ACTING PAO HAS BEEN INVITED TO THE STATE

EDUCATION COMMISSION FRIDAY TO DISCUSS THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM.

MEDIA REACTION IN THE U.S. TO THE SCOWCROFT-EAGLEBURGER MISSION HAS BEEN GENERALLY NEGATIVE AND FREQUENTLY SCATHING, THOUGH WE HAVE GOTTEN SOME USEFUL SUPPORT IN THE FORM OF LETTERS AND OP-ED PIECES FROM CONGRESSMAN LEACH, MIKE OKSENBERG, AND DOAK BARNETT AMONG OTHERS. CHINA IS CLEARLY AN INCREASINGLY PARTISAN ISSUE.

2. (C) VICE MINISTER'S MEETING ON SATELLITE LICENSING

(LK)

THE SATELLITE LICENSING QUESTION HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF MUCH SPECULATION IN NEWS REPORS AND OP-ED PIECES. THE WASHINGTON TIMES CARRIED A LENGTHY REPORT, INDICATING AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS ALREADY DECIDED TO ISSUE THE LICENSES ON DECEMBER 15. THE NEWS REPORTS AND COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE BEEN GENERALLY NEGATIVE ON THE LICENSING OF SATELLITES FOR CHINA, WITH OPPOSITION LINKED TO BOTH CONCERNS OVER HUMAN RIGHTS AND CHINESE MISSILE-SALES POLICY.

3. (LOU) CODELS IN HONG KONG AND PRC (BJE AND JK)